



# Josh Conway - Alumni Development Officer

## Why are you applying for the Alumni Association Executive? (150 words)

I passionately believe that EYP is one of the most exciting and opportunity rich organisations for young people that is active today. I feel that I myself have developed significantly in the last 2 years, and from this perspective I think it is regretful that many alumni do not remain active within the organisation. I am also certain that if more was done to extol the opportunities available within EYP we could greatly increase delegate retention. EYPUK has come significantly in increasing delegate involvement in the last few years. The alumni training weekend in Oxford has seen a really strong crop of new EYPUK alumni engaging in both EYPUK and the wider EYP network. If in one weekend we can increase the retention significantly, I am adamant that if we increase our outreach throughout the year, and build a stronger connection with new Alumni from the beginning of their journey we can have a wider and more diverse alumni body who are ready to engage both in EYPUK and across the wider European network

## What would your aims and priorities be in this role? How would you pursue them? (250 words)

### - Creating Ties From the outset

Starting the alumni development process as early as possible by;

- post session contact through an email/newsletter and an activity within the national session (Such as the staying involved workshops in the summer nationals). This will prevent delegates feeling that the nationals are the end of their EYP journey and promote interest while they are still in the EYP mindset.
- Extend an offer of an alumni-ship to delegates who have attended a regional session. An online application they must complete themselves delegates that have a genuine interest in remaining in EYP will become alumni. (I believe a delegate that becomes an alumnus through their own personal drive is more likely to remain engaged than those that become alumni through attending a National session)

### Development Throughout the Year

The Alumni training weekend has proven to be an enormous success in increasing delegate involvement post nationals, I would like to extend out contact with the alumni base by;

- have two events a year rather than one, across different areas of the UK to reduce alienating people through travel costs/time. Potentially having one further north or even in Scotland to reach rapidly growing delegate pool in these regions.
- having a regularly updated FAQ pinned to the alumni page, with a google drive containing materials explaining roles and opportunities within EYP.

### - Access to the Alumni Executive

The alumni Dev still has a disconnect from the alumni body. I would address this by;

- having introductions on the alumni Facebook page, as well as introductory videos. Having these pinned to the top of the page with contact details (eyruk emails) would stop the exec feeling quite as distant and make it more accessible to newer alumni who may not be sure how to contact us, or even who we are.
- increase exec members presence at EYPUK events, so that alumni are seeing the board as being active and engaged within EYP and that they are not just a separate entity to the alumni body.



What skills and experience (within or without EYP) do you have that will help you in this role?  
How will you use these skills for the benefit of EYPUK? (250 words)

Through being a Head Organiser for the summer national session I have been able to learn many of the skills that will be applicable to the role. I am acutely aware of the importance of staying on top of emails, meeting deadlines and keeping open lines of communication with the people I am working with, particularly regarding organising accommodation for events (such as the alumni training weekend). I was able to develop time and energy management skills, both of which will help me to be an active member of the EYPUK community as the alumni development officer and succeed in my degree without favouring one over the other or suffering from any kind of burnout.

I have learned how important a well-managed digital workspace is to the success of an endeavour. From a tidy google drive on the administrative side, to an active and engaging social media presence. The later of which will be key in delegate retention. By maintaining an active social media presence in the EYPUK Alumni Facebook page we will keep EYP at the forefront of the delegates feeds, and considering the significance of social media in most young peoples lives this will keep EYP as a part of there day to day life, and hopefully increase involvement.

Another key skill I have been able to develop, both as a HO and through taking part in other intense environments, is being able to place myself in someone else's shoes. I want to be approachable as the Alumni Development officer, and a key part of that is making sure people won't feel worried about coming to you with questions and problems. By creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere we will in turn increase delegate retention

Anything else you'd like to add?

I am aware hoe cliched this may sound, but I am incredibly passionate about EYP. I am stalwart in my belief that it has made me a much better person and that it has given me opportunities that I would never have had had I not attended. I want as many people as possible to feel the same excitement I do about EYP, and I feel I can do that best as the alumni development officer.

To sum up my manifesto, my key points are

- Starting the development process as early as we possibly can
- Extending alumni-ship to delegates that are engaged at regional sessions
- Increasing the scope of our training and social events
- Making the Exec more approachable/accessible

I am incredibly excited about the coming elections and I am certain that whatever the outcome they will be fantastic fun

Good luck to all those running!

